

In the Woman's World

Beatriz Michelena's History of the Motion Picture Industry

CHAPTER IV

In my last chapter I outlined briefly the most essential principles and workings of the motion picture camera as it operates today. With this established in advance the reader can better follow and appreciate the untiring patience with which the early experimenters worked toward its perfection. It is a tedious and often obscure period. Much of the work was tested, revised unnumbered and finally consummated in the dark. The great public was scarcely cognizant of it, cared little and offered of encouragement none.

Looking back at it, we can penetrate behind the scenes but infrequently. There are all the high light and pulsating courage of genuine romance.

As I have previously suggested, the first motion picture photographers were limited in their endeavors to unwieldy and bulky glass plates. This immediately impoverished the possibilities of their apparatus. But they made the best of what they had.

The first device to receive passing notice was designated as a photographic gun. Although its operation and consequently usefulness was decidedly limited in its extent, it was, nevertheless, an ingenious conception and a credit to its inventor, Dr. E. J. Marey.

In his camera or "gun" the doctor used one large circular glass plate that fastened into a cylindrical plate holder. As the camera was operated this holder revolved very much as the cylinder of an Alkali Ike's six-shooter. Each jerky step forward in the revolution brought a new section of unexposed plate in front of the lens, and carried the preceding section, now exposed, safely away into the dark and impenetrable regions of the camera. When the revolution was completed and the plate developed, its entire outer edge was bordered about with a series of small photographs (their size being regulated by the adjustment of the lens), which followed each other in close succession. Marey devised this "photographic gun" solely for scientific purposes, and with it observed and registered

changing positions of birds in flight, or of other animals in their various movements. The photographs that he could get with it during one revolution of the plate, and consequently before he had to call a halt to load up with new "ammunition," were very limited in number. Naturally it could not nearly meet the requirements of commercialized motion picture photography as we know it today. However, it did serve its purpose as adequately as Muybridge's row of cameras, and had the added and very decisive advantage of being but one camera doing the work of the previous many. Moreover, Muybridge had to "plant" his apparatus and leave it stationary, like a set trap, until the pictures were taken. Marey, on the other hand, could turn his device instantly in any direction. With it he could sweep the landscape and the sky alike.

However, crude it may appear in view of later day developments, this invention of Dr. Marey was a very important and carefully calculated promotion of the idea that his predecessor Muybridge had some faint glimmering of when he went to consult Senator Stanford a decade before.

While Marey was struggling and stumbling, all unconscious of where the road was leading, toward the light in France, other experimenters, just as unthinkable of the astonishing results soon to follow, were doing major work in other parts of the globe. W. F. Greene of England deserves passing mention. However, his and other devices of the period were glass plate affairs and consequently could not advance beyond the hard and fast line that stood as a barrier between them and the greater commercial possibilities.

However, investigation had already branched off on a new tangent and undauntedly entered an unexplored field. It was half blind and altogether groping investigation, but with the courage to persevere, ears closed to the word "impossible" and all its synonyms. It was the search for a pliable film, tedious in its accomplishment but unspeakably gigantic in its results.

(To be continued next week.)

CAPABLE WOMEN AND THEIR WORK

Many men are now fighting in the Slav army.

London's business is now practically run by women.

Germany's surplus of women now totals nearly a million.

The munition industries in France employ more than 100,000 women.

Women telegraph operators in this country number more than 200,000.

Massachusetts has more than 9000 school teachers on the pension fund.

London has a school where women are given a course in grocery salesmanship.

Canadian women are organizing to boycott German and Austrian manufactured goods.

Miss One E. Pluke has been appointed Commissioner of Charities in Middletown, N. Y.

Birmingham is the only city in England where women are licensed as taxicab drivers.

In a few years Germany will have more women attorneys than any other country in the world.

The clubwomen of Louisiana, Georgia and Alabama are working for compulsory educational laws.

From the middle of the last century the women of Russia have asserted their eagerness for professional training.

Many British women doing men's work are wearing trousers, as they are more comfortable and convenient dress.

Mrs. Charles E. Hughes, wife of the Republican candidate for president, is a graduate of Wellesley College.

Although not a salaried, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Joy of Baltimore, Md., has crossed the Atlantic Ocean 29 times.

One of the results of the present strike is the astonishing increase of women students in all German universities.

Mrs. Martin Littleton still keeps up her interest in the purchase of the home of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello.

Miss Elbertine Foundry has charge of the bureau that compiles the set of life tables in the United States Census Bureau.

Miss Marie A. Peary, daughter of the Arctic explorer, has taken up aviation and is contemplating a trip to the North Pole in an airship.

Miss Etta M. Burkhardt of Sheridan, Wyo., is conceded to be the "Queen of Potato Growers" in the United States. She has a record of raising 640 bushels to the acre.

Several cities in England now employ women as car conductors. Among Birmingham, with 700; Liverpool, with 300; Sheffield, with 600 and Leeds with 400.

Miss Lotta Crabtree, once one of the fabled idols of the American stage and now nearly 70 years of age, has joined the artist colony at Gloucester, Mass., and recently began the study of art.

Twenty thousand clubwomen in Texas are working for good roads. They have built rural club houses, established markets for farm women and offered prizes for the best conducted rural schools.

The state railway of Wuertemberg, Germany, has appointed the first women station masters in that country. She has complete charge of a station and directs the incoming and outgoing trains.

The labor reserves in America to supply the existing demands are women. Many thousands of them have already been drawn into industry for the first time without adequate provisions for housing and protection being made for them.

When President Wilson ordered the National Guard to the Mexican border, Mrs. Charles E. Hughes, Mrs. L. M. Garrison and Mrs. George W. Wickersham conceived the idea of a Women's American Supply League and are seeking the cooperation of all women who have time and money to give forward to their aims.

HOW TO DYE

Housekeepers who wish to dye curtains and draperies do not always know what colors will result from the use of colored dyes. The following table indicates what colors will be produced in the dyeing of colored cloths.

Blue on red produces purple.
Blue on yellow produces green.
Blue on brown produces deep seal brown.
Blue on purple produces blue-plum color.
Blue on green produces bluish green.
Light blue on green produces peacock blue.
Light blue on pink produces lavender.
Light blue on orange produces brown.

Red on dark green produces brown or black.
Red on blue produces purple.
Red on yellow produces scarlet.
Red on heliotrope produces wine color.
Red on orange produces scarlet.
Red on green produces brown.
Cardinal on navy blue produces light purple.
Maroon on dark green produces plum color.
Maroon on navy blue produces dark purple.

Yellow on red produces scarlet.
Yellow on blue produces green.
Yellow on brown produces golden brown.
Yellow on purple produces dull green.
Yellow on green produces light green.

IRISH LINEN SETS

Among the newest temptations to buy at the counter where the table linens are sold are the luncheon napkins—especially to go with Irish linen



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luncheon sets. Many a hostess has been puzzled to know just what form of napkin to use with the Irish linen sets. Madeira napkins, the dainty, are hardly in keeping, and the conventional damask napkins are no more so. But now we find the solution in the form of linen squares, edged about by an Irish lace picot. Many of them are simply this and no more. Others are decorated with an ornate monogram or conventional design at one of the corners. While these may be bought at a shop for something like \$8 or \$9 a dozen, they can be very simple and easily made at home; for the merest novice can learn how to make a picot or Armenian edge; and that same novice can quite simply roll it on linen squares of correct lunch napkin size.

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"DOES SHE SHUT EYES?"

A distinguished forum fighter recently propounded a question which seems to us of the greatest psychological and pathological interest—namely, why does a girl shut her eyes when a fellow kisses her?

Having put the most meager experience in such matters, we were entrained, in the pursuit of knowledge, to seek information from others. A suffragette, who we supposed knew everything and would be quite disinterested, seemed to be somewhat vexed at our polite inquiry, and replied:

"I'm sure I have not the slightest idea, unless the girl is ashamed of being such a silly fool as to kiss the brute."

From a young wife came this curious answer:

"She is thinking, 'Oh, Lord, how I have been cheated!'"

Pursuing the investigation further among a number of young women who presumably knew something of the subject, we got such answers as these:

"If you have ever seen a male 'mug' at close range—or ever looked in a mirror—you ought to understand why she shuts her eyes."

"Perhaps for the same reason that men like to be blindfolded before they are shot or have to face any other horrible ordeal."

But one sweet young thing, made up of loveliness alone, answered the question with melting eye and a rapt expression:

"Ah, it's because she is drugged, intoxicated by the sweetness and joy of it."

Puzzled by this diversity of female opinion, we appealed to a somewhat shockingly gray old blade of our acquaintance as to why girls shut their eyes.

"Answer—is they don't," he replied.

Burma exported 2136 tons of tungsten ore in the first nine months of the current year, against 1520 tons in the like period of 1915.

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SAVING HINT

Save your old silk raincoat to make a nice bathing suit for next summer. Cut the blouse and skirt from the best part and make the bloomers from what is left over, or from mohair. Trim it with a bright braid and make a tie and cap from the spare pieces. Another use for that old coat is to make it into waterproof bags which are very handy for carrying rubbers or slippers to school this winter. These bags are made in the shape of envelopes and are half a yard long and nearly as wide. Bind all around with tape and fasten with a snap. At the top and at each end fasten braid a yard long. This makes it convenient to sling the bag over the shoulder and carry in this manner.

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